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INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE: [redacted] 25X1X

1. In January or February 1951 the Chinese Communist Government gathered the majority of the 2,000 members of the old Navigation Protection Corps in a training camp on the outskirts of Canton for investigative purposes.

2. The government determined that 68 per cent of the members were former soldiers of the Nationalist Army, 12 per cent were ordinary workers, and the remaining 20 per cent were former bandits or local bosses who had previously been tolerated because they had helped to maintain safety on the inland waterways.

3. The Chinese Communist Government caused the 68 per cent group of former Nationalist soldiers to volunteer for service in the Korean war. The 12 per cent group of ordinary workers was trained at the camp and then sent back to their home districts for farming or work in the local government.[2] The 20 per cent composed of former bandits were sent back to their home villages or districts for public trial by the local people.

4. The details of soldiers now guarding the vessels are changed frequently because those assigned to the work learn that the position may be a lucrative one.

25X1A 1. [redacted] Comment. For three decades prior to the Communist regime every vessel navigating the inland waters of Kwangtung had to hire its own protection men and buy guns for them if it wished to sail unmolested through bandit territory; those government protection men almost non-existent. The government issued permits for these men to bear arms and called them the Navigation Protection Corps. The Communists regarded this group as dangerous not only because they had weapons, but also because they could easily serve as kidnap and communication lines for bandits and anti-Communist guerrilla forces.

25X1A 2. [redacted] Comment. It is probable that this training consisted of political indoctrination.

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